(d) Government have taken both the reports into consideration while formulating the Tenth Plan.

Core Group on Common Minimum Programme

t977. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Core Group has been constituted by Government under the Chairmanship of Labour Secretary to implement and monitor the Common Minimum Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering a comprehensive change in labour policies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the Common Minimum Programme and working area of the Core Group?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) A Core Group comprising of officials of Ministry of Labour and Employment has been constituted with a view to monitor the implementation of the policies/programmes contained in the National Common Minimum Programme concerning this Ministry.

(c) to (e) Review and updation of labour laws is a continuous process keeping in view the emerging needs of the economy for higher productivity, competitiveness, higher level of investments, employment generation etc. Main areas concerning labour and employment indicated in the National Common Minimum Programme which will also be monitored by the Core Group relate to enactment of a National Employment Guarantee Act, ensuring welfare and well being of workers particularly in the unorganised sector, review of labour laws with a view to harmonize and streamline procedures etc.

Right to strike for Government Employees

978 SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that ILO came in for pointed criticism on the ruling of the Supreme Court in the year 2003, extinguishing right to strike for Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the experts in industrial relation law seeking in ILO, has sought a clear affirmation from Government that there be no long-term damage to workers' interest from the Supreme Court's excathedra denunciation of the right to strike;

(d) if so, the action taken, if any, to protect the right to strike; and

(e) whether ILO conventions 87 and 98 would be ratified?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir. The Conventions would not be ratified as our national laws and practices are not in conformity with the provisions of these Conventions.

Social Security Scheme for women bamboo workers

979. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether women bamboo workers are covered under any Social Security Scheme;

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(b) if so, whether the National Commission for Women has studied their condition and sent recommendations to Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to provide social security to women like pension, insurance and health?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (d) The Government has launched on pilot basis the Unorganised Sector Workers' Social Security Scheme, 2004 in 50 districts